

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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EO 11652 : N/A

TAGS : EAIR MX US

SUBJ : CIVAIR: MEXICAN AVIATION WORKERS' OFFICIALS AGAINST
INEQUITABLE CIVAIR BILATERAL

REF : A) MEXICO 1138, B) MEXICO 1022

1. LEADERS OF ASPA (ASOCIACION SINDICAL DE PILOTAS
AVIADORES), SNTAS (SINDICATO DE TRABAJADORES DE AVIACION Y
SIMILARES) AND SNTTA (SINDICATO NACIONAL DE TECNICOS Y
TRABAJADORES DE AEROMEXICO) IN PRESS CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 7
CAME OUT AGAINST THE IDEA OF FOREIGN AIRLINES, AND THOSE
OF THE U.S., IN PARTICULAR, WITH RESPECT TO THE UPCOMING
REUNION OF THE U.S.-MEXICAN CIVAIR BILATERAL, CONTROLLING
"AN INCONVENIENT PROPORTION" OF THE FLOW OF TRAVELERS TO
MEXICO. THE NATIONAL AIRLINES, THEY STATED, AFTER YEARS
OF EFFORT AND WORK, HAVE DEVELOPED A MARKET THAT HAS
AWAKENED THE GREED OF THE WORLD AIRLINES WHICH NOW ASPIRE
"TO SIT AT THE TABLE THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN SET". OUR
PREOCCUPATION, THEY ADDED, IS THAT THE AIRLINES OF THE
UNITED STATES AND EUROPE WANT TO PROFIT FROM THE
POTENTIAL TOURIST CENTERS PROMOTED BY THE MEXICAN
COMPANIES AND DEVELOPED AFTER YEARS OF NATIONAL EFFORT,
INVESTMENT AND SUSTAINED WORK. THIS COULD COME ABOUT
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SHOULD THE FOREIGN AIRLINES HAVE THE DECIDED SUPPORT
OF THE LOPEZ PORTILLO ADMINISTRATION.

2. BILATERAL CIVAIR ACCORDS, THEY SAID, SHOULD BE BASED ON
THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF BOTH PARTIES AND EACH SHOULD
HAVE THE SAME OPPORTUNITY TO COMPETE. THIS DOES NOT
MEAN "FREE COMPETITION" WHICH WOULD FAVOR THE STRONGER,

BUT ON THE CONTRARY, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF EQUITABLE NORMS WHICH TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION, INTER ALIA, THE AREAS OF INFLUENCE AT EACH TERMINAL POINT. MOREOVER, "THE APPARENT RECIPROCITY OF A FIFTH FREEDOM AIR RIGHT IN A HIGHLY COMPETITIVE AND SATURATED MARKET SUCH AS THE NORTH ATLANTIC CANNOT BE COMPARED WITH THE RIGHT TO CONTINUE BEYOND MEXICO TO CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA."

3. THEY CONCLUDED BY STATING THAT THE MEXICAN AIRLINES WILL BE ABLE TO SATISFY BOTH DOMESTIC AND TOURIST DEMANDS PROVIDED THE GOM MAINTAINS A FIRM POSTION IN ALL BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS.

4. COMMENT: THE REMARKS OF THE UNION LEADERS ARE INDICATIVE OF AN UNEASINESS THAT HAS DEVELOPED OF LATE IN THE MEXICAN COMMERCIAL AVIATION INDUSTRY OVER THE UPCOMING CIVAIR TALKS WITH THE U.S. OF MAJOR CONCERN APPEARS TO BE THE POSSIBILITY OF THE GOM ACCEDING TO THE RE-ALIGNMENT AND/OR NEW FIFTH FREEDOM RIGHTS BEYOND MEXICO AS WELL AS THE GRANTING OF ACCESS TO THE NEWER TOURIST MECCAS, WHICH ARE NOW THE MONOPOLY OF THE NATIONAL CARRIERS, WITHOUT DEMANDING TRADE-OFFS OF EQUAL VALUE. RHETORIC ASIDE, THE MEXICAN CARRIERS MOST LIKELY WOULD PREFER THE STATUS QUO. THEIR PRESENT FINANCIAL POSITION IS SUCH THAT THEY MIGHT FIND IT DIFFICULT TO ACTIVELY EXPLOIT ON A COMPETITIVE BASIS ANY NEW INTERNATIONAL ROUTES THEY MIGHT RECEIVE AS A RESULT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

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